

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 4, 2014

Patrick R. Donahoe
Postmaster General & Chief Executive Officer
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW
Washington, D.C. 200260

Dear Postmaster General:

We write to you today regarding our continued concerns about the multi-year Post Plan process, which is currently underway in New Mexico and may result in modifications to over 140 post offices in the state.



We were pleased to learn that The United States Post Office (USPS) reconsidered its initial plan to close over 50 post offices in New Mexico in 2011 and announced the Post Plan as an alternative. However, we have heard from many constituents who are anxious about reduced service hours in their communities. Reductions in hours or consolidation into another nearby office can be especially hard hitting in rural areas, where customers often have to drive for miles to reach their closest Post Office.

Additionally, we have heard complaints about community meetings organized by USPS to gain community input on the future of individual offices. These meetings were highlighted by USPS as a key step in the process to gain local input before any decision is made. We strongly urge you to ensure the feedback received at these meetings be weighed heavily in your decision making process and that no decision be made regarding the future of local post offices before these meetings are held. We believe that these meeting should be transparent, accessible and scheduled at times that are convenient for community members who work full-time to attend.

We are also concerned that those Postmasters who did not elect early retirement in 2012 and remained an active part of their rural communities will be seriously impacted by any reduction in hours or benefits. New Mexico Postmasters are integral to these small towns and are often leaders in their communities.

We ask that you consider these factors moving forward with the implantation of the Post Plan and we will continue to monitor this process closely as it unfolds in New Mexico.

Sincerely,



Tom Udall
United States Senator

Martin Heinrich
United States Senator